

STAT

26 February 1982

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A FORMER CUBAN INTELLIGENCE AGENT SAID THAT HAVANA, AT THE SOVIET UNION'S DIRECTION, OPERATES A NETWORK OF SPY AGENTS IN THE MIAMI AREA, PRIMARILY TO DISTRACT THE U.S. FROM MORE IMPORTANT SPIES.

GERARDO PERAZA, 42, WHO QUIT THE CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN 1971 AND DEFECTED TO THE UNITED STATES, SAID THROUGH AN INTERPRETER THERE "IS NO POSSIBILITY OF DETECTING THE TRUE AGENTS. THE FBI DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO DETECT THE REAL AGENTS."

PERAZA, TESTIFYING BEFORE A SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND TERRORISM, SAID CUBA'S INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR INTELLIGENCE (DGI) RELIED ON THE SOVIET UNION FOR TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN, SEN. JEREMIAH DENTON, SAID HE HOPED THE HEARING WOULD ENLIGHTEN AMERICANS WHO "STILL ADHERE TO THE BELIEF THAT FIDEL CASTRO IS A ROMANTIC REVOLUTIONARY WHO IS SIMPLY CARRYING THE STANDARD FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF CUBA."

DENTON, R-ALA., CHARGED THAT CASTRO ORCHESTRATED THE EXODUS OF 130,000 PEOPLE FROM MARIEL HARBOR IN CUBA IN 1980 PARTLY TO SEND INTELLIGENCE AGENTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

"THERE IS NO WAY TO ACCURATELY ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF DGI AGENTS WHO ENTERED UNDER THIS GUISE OF REFUGEES TO JOIN THOSE ALREADY IN PLACE," DENTON SAID. BUT HE SAID HE ALSO HAD LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THERE ARE 300 CUBAN AGENTS IN MIAMI.

PERAZA, SPEAKING IN SPANISH, SAID HE LEFT CUBA 12 YEARS AGO IN PROTEST TO A REQUIREMENT THAT INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND BECAUSE THE CUBAN AGENCY HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER THE CONTROL OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE.

HE SAID THE USSR, IN TAKING COMMAND OF THE AGENCY, WAS INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN "THE PENETRATION OF UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE."

IN INTRODUCING PERAZA, DENTON SAID HE WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE SIGNALS BUREAU IN THE DGI IN 1967 TO MONITOR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES AMONG CUBAN EXILES. DENTON SAID HE WAS LATER ASSIGNED TO THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN LONDON WITH THE COVER TITLE OF SECOND SECRETARY.

PERAZA SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS TRAINED IN MOSCOW IN 1965, CUBANS WERE GIVEN SPECIAL FAVORED TREATMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION. THE CUBAN INTELLIGENCE TRAINEES "WERE THE APPLE OF THEIR EYE," HE SAID.

AP-WX-02-26-82 1719EST